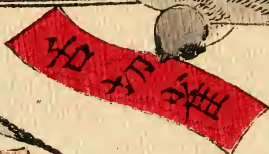


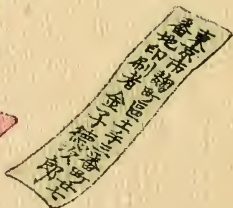
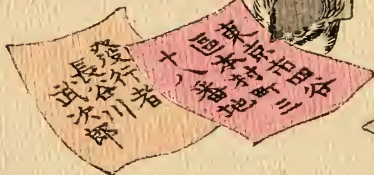
Japanese Fairy Tale Series,  
No. 2.

THE TONGUE CUT  
SPARROW.





Published by  
**T. HASEGAWA,**  
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THE  
TONGUE CUT SPARROW.

**I**T is said that once upon a time a cross old woman laid some starch in a basin intending to put it in the clothes in her



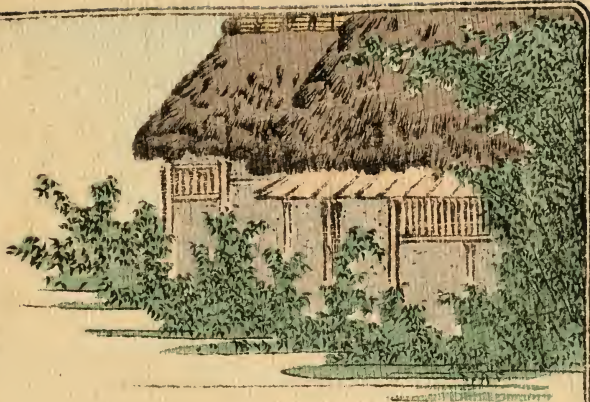


wash-tub; but a sparrow that a woman her neighbor kept as a pet eat it up. Seeing this the cross old woman seized the sparrow, and saying: "you hateful thing!" cut its tongue and let it go.

When the neighbor woman heard that her pet sparrow had got its tongue cut for its offense, she was greatly grieved, and set out with her husband over mountains and plains to find

where it had gone. Crying:  
"Where does the tongue-cut  
sparrow stay? Where does the  
tongue-cut sparrow stay?"





At last they  
found its home.  
When the spar-  
row saw  
that









its old master and mistress had come to see it, it rejoiced and brought them into its house and thanked them for their kindness in old times and spread a table for them, and loaded it with *sake* and fish till there was no more room, and made its wife and children and grandchildren all serve the table.

At last throwing away its drinking-cup it danced a jig



called the sparrow's dance.

Thus they spent  
the day.





When it began  
to grow dark, and they began  
to talk of going home, the  
sparrow brought out two wicker  
baskets and said: "Will you



take the heavy one, or shall I  
give you the light one?" The  
old people replied: "We are  
old, so give us the light one:  
it will be

easier to

carry

it."





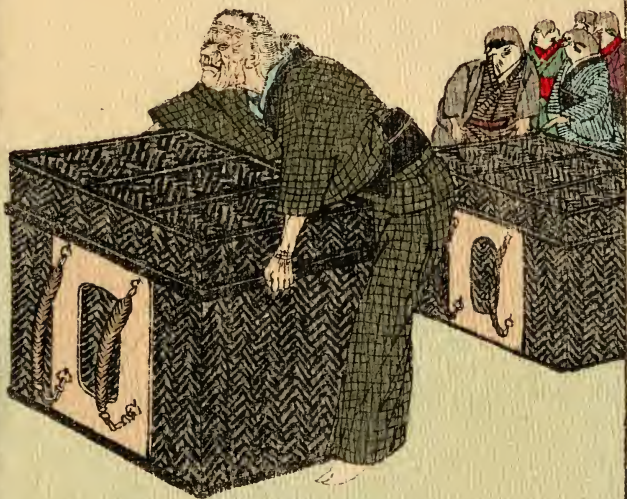
The sparrow then gave them the light basket and they returned with it to their home. "Let us open and see what is in it" they said. And when they had opened it and looked they found gold and silver and jewels and rolls of silk. They never expected any thing like this. The more they took out the more they found inside. The supply was inexhaustable. So that house at once became rich and prosperous.

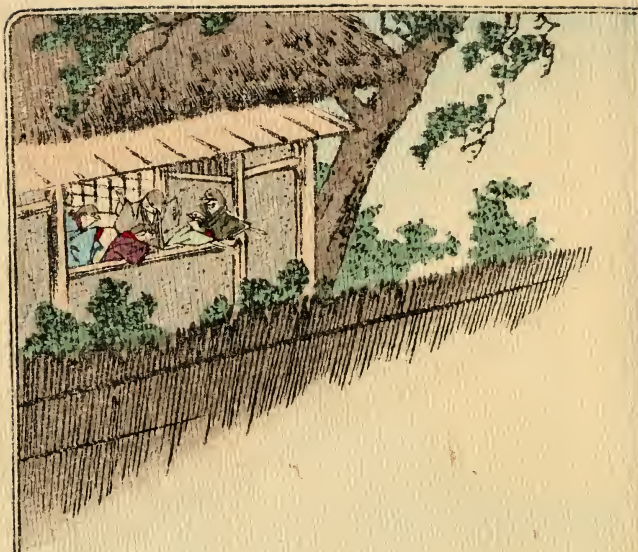
When the cross old woman who had cut the sparrow's tongue saw this, she was filled with envy, and went and asked her neighbor where the sparrow lived, and all about the way, "I will go too;" she said, and at once set out on her search.

Again the sparrow brought out two wicker baskets and asked as before: "Will you take the heavy one, or shall I give you the light one?"



Thinking the treasure would  
be great in proportion to the  
weight of the basket, the old





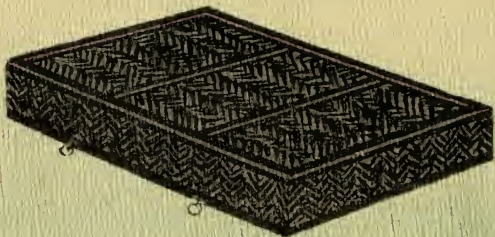
woman replied: "Let  
me have the heavy one."  
Receiving this, she started home  
with it on her back; the sparrows  
laughing at her as she went.

It was as heavy as a stone  
and hard to carry; but at last



she got back with it to her house.

Then when she took off the lid and looked in a whole troop of frightful devils came bouncing out from the inside and at once tore the old woman to pieces.







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